



# **Federal Voting Assistance Program**

## **Department of Defense Military Voting Assistance Officers Self-Administered Training**



# Introduction

Welcome to the 2010-2011 Voting Assistance Officer Training. This training provides information to help you carry out your duties as a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) and conduct a successful voting assistance program.



# Training Goals

- This training program consists of five main sections:
  - UOCAVA, FVAP and You;
  - The Absentee Voting Process;
  - The Role of the Military Voting Assistance Officer;
  - Available Resources;
  - Quick Review and Certification

# Your Vote Counts

During the 2010 election cycle, a number of important offices and items will go before the voters

- 38 United States Senators
- All Members of the U.S. House of Representatives
- 39 State and Territorial Governors
- State and Local Offices
- Ballot Questions and Referenda

# Your Vote Counts

## Recent Elections Potentially Decided by UOCAVA Voters:

- 2000: Florida Presidential Election;
- 2006: Virginia U.S. Senate Election;
- 2008: Alaska U.S. Senate Election;
- 2008: Minnesota U.S. Senate Election;
- 2009: New York 20<sup>th</sup> Cong. District Special Election.

***The margin of victory in many elections is small than the total number of votes cast by UOCAVA Voters!***

# UOCAVA, FVAP, and You

- The Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), administers the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* on behalf of the Secretary of Defense.
- *UOCAVA* requires each Federal department and agency with personnel covered by the Act to have a voting assistance program.
- The FVAP biennial Voting Action Plan and Department of Defense Directive 1000.4 establish policy and guidelines to assist you in carrying out an effective voting assistance program.
- Your job as a VAO is to help to ensure that citizens understand their voting rights and how to register and vote absentee under *UOCAVA*.

# UOCAVA, FVAP, and You

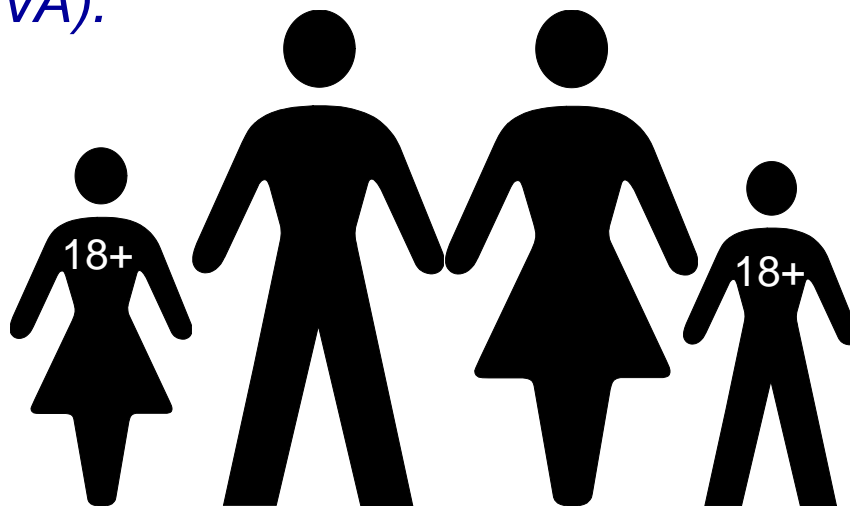
- *UOCAVA* requires States and territories to allow citizens covered under the Act to register and vote absentee for Federal offices.
- States and territories have their own laws that allow *UOCAVA* citizens to vote in State and local elections.
- U.S. citizens allowed to vote under *UOCAVA* include:
  - Members of the U.S. Uniformed Services (on active duty) and Merchant Marine;
  - Their family members.
  - U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.
- *UOCAVA* covers more than six million potential voters worldwide.



# UOCAVA, FVAP, and You

The goals of the FVAP and VAOs worldwide are:

- Informing and educating U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote;
- Fostering voting participation;
- Protecting the integrity of, and enhancing, the electoral process at the Federal, State, and local levels, and;
- Promoting effectiveness and efficiency in the administration of the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*.





# UOCAVA, FVAP, and You

## Immediate Objectives:

- **1<sup>st</sup>: UOCAVA voting success rates to equal or exceed general population rates**
  - Increase absentee ballot cast rate;
  - Decrease registration/absentee ballot request failure rate;
  - Increase FWAB utilization/success rate.
- **2<sup>nd</sup>: UOCAVA voter participation rate to equal or exceed general population (by age group)**

# **Your Role as a Military Voting Assistance Officer**



# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

Your responsibilities as a VAO:

- Become familiar with the *Voting Assistance Guide* (VAG) and the FVAP website ([www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)).
- Obtain a letter of designation from your Commanding Officer
- Receive VAO certification by attending an in-person FVAP workshop or through this CD Rom/web-based training to learn the absentee voting process.
- Schedule an orientation briefing with the Installation Commanding Officer (CO) prior to the start of primary elections.
- Let others know that you are available as a resource and provide your contact information.
- Sign up to receive the FVAP News Releases (send an email to [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)).

# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

Your responsibilities as a VAO:

- Post notices in prominent locations reminding and motivating people to register and vote
- Ensure that there is an adequate supply of voting materials on hand year-round
- Armed Forces Voters Week (June 28-July 7, 2010)
  - Plan voting assistance activities such as non-partisan voter registration drives
- Absentee Voting Week (September 27-October 4, 2010)
  - During Absentee Voting Week, use media to notify voters to return the voted ballot immediately, and notify those who have not received their ballot to use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.





# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

Your responsibilities as a VAO:

- Ensure delivery of the Federal Post Card Application to unit members and their dependents:
  - By January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year
  - By July 15<sup>th</sup> of each even numbered year
- Remind members in the organization who have received the FVAP Post Election Survey to complete it and return it immediately

# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

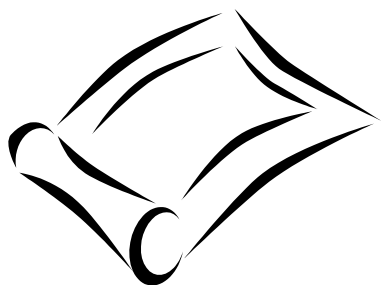
Your responsibilities as a VAO:

- As a VAO, you may provide only non-partisan voting procedures and information.
- You may not distribute any literature from candidates, political parties, or partisan organizations.
- The following resources provide more information on political activity by members of the Uniformed Services and Federal Employees:
  - Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, “Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty”  
(<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/html/134410.htm>)
  - The Hatch Act (restrictions on political activities by government employees) ([www.osc.gov/hatchact.htm](http://www.osc.gov/hatchact.htm))

# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

## The Voting Action Plan:

- The FVAP provides a biennial Voting Action Plan to implement the requirements of *UOCAVA* and Department of Defense Directive 1000.4 and to ensure that *UOCAVA* voters are provided all necessary voting information.
- Each of the Uniformed Services has an internal voting action plan. To get a copy of this plan, contact your Service Voting Action Officer.



# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

Creating an effective voting assistance plan:

- Display the 2010 Election Dates and motivational posters
- Reach out to younger citizens (18-24) who have statistically lower voter participation rates
- Include tenant organizations in your absentee voting activities, especially National Guard and Reserve Units



**2010 Election Dates**  
Honor the past, support the future - vote!  
The General Election is Tuesday, November 2, 2010.

State	State Primary	Runoff Primary	General Election			
			U.S. Senate	U.S. Representative	State	County
Alabama	June 1	July 13	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska	August 24	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	.....	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	August 21	June 8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	August 12	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
District of Columbia	.....	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	August 25	August 25	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	May 20	August 10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	.....	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Illinois	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	May 23	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	May 4	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	August 24 (2nd Party)	October 2 (2nd Party)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maine	June 8	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	June 1	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	June 1	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri	June 8	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nevada	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	.....	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	June 8	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	June 1	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oklahoma	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	June 8	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	June 8	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	June 8	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas	May 18	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utah	June 1	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	August 12	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	August 12	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	September 14	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	August 12	.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

State Party Conventions: \*\* State Parties & 2nd Party Conventions/Runoff Elections  
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Dear Voting Assistance Officer:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

FVAP  
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)  
Alaska voting site: www.alaska.vote.gov  
Alaska: www.alaska.vote.gov





## The Military Voting Assistance Officer

Creating an effective voting assistance plan (continued)

- Disseminate copies of the “Frequently Asked Questions” for Uniformed Service Members”
- Send your good ideas and lessons learned to your Service Voting Action Officer (SVAO)
- Contact the [FVAP](#) if you cannot find answers locally or through your SVAO

# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

## VAO Material Checklist:

- Command Support
- Letter of Designation from C.O.
- Voting Assistance Materials
- Time and Resources dedicated to VAO Duties
- Assistant VAO (One assistant VAO required for each 50 members of your unit)
- Bookmark online forms and FVAP Website

*Instructions on how to order materials are in  
Chapter 3 of the Voting Assistance Guide*



# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

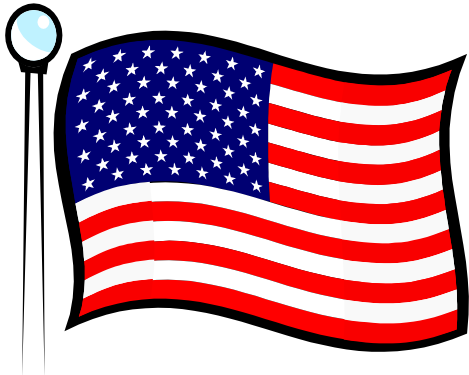
## Voting Emphasis Weeks:

- Armed Forces and Overseas Citizens Voters Week
  - June 28-July 7, 2010
  - Stress completion and submission of FPCA
  
- Absentee Voting Week
  - September 27-October 4, 2010
  - Stress completion and submission of State ballots and FWAB

# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

This section of the VAO training program will provide you with information on:

- Your Service Voting Action Officer (SVAO)
- Your responsibilities as a VAO
- The voting assistance plan
- The continuity folder



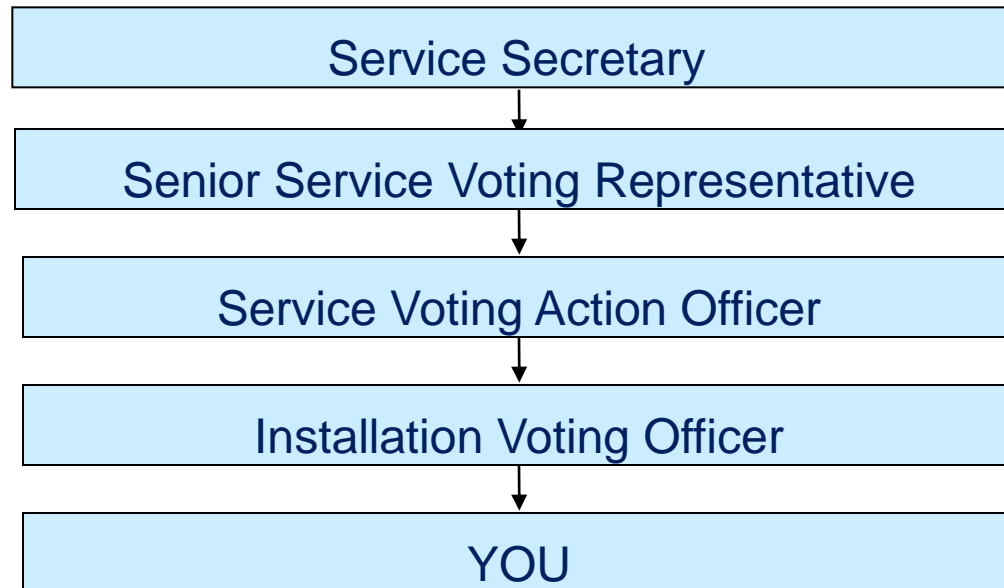
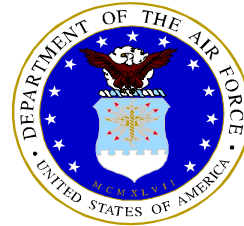
# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

- Within the Uniformed Services and the Merchant Marine, individuals at varying levels of command are responsible for implementing, managing, and carrying out voting assistance operations.
- The following slide provides an overview of the voting assistance “chain of command” within each branch of the Armed Services.



# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

## Your Service Voting Assistance Program





# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

## Your Service Voting Action Officers

Army: Mr. Alton Perry  
tel: (703) 325-4530, DSN 221-4530  
fax: (703) 325-4532, DSN: 221-4532  
email: [voting.questions@conus.army.mil](mailto:voting.questions@conus.army.mil)

Marine Corps: Mr. Kenneth Warford  
tel: (703) 784-9511, DSN: 278-9511  
fax: (703) 784-9828, DSN: 278-9828  
email: [mra.voting.officer@usmc.mil](mailto:mra.voting.officer@usmc.mil)

Navy: Dave Stevens  
tel: (901) 874-4634, DSN: 882-4634  
fax: (901) 874-6844, DSN 882-6844  
email: [vote@navy.mil](mailto:vote@navy.mil)

Coast Guard: LTJG Frank Marcheski  
tel: (202) 475-5382  
fax: (202) 475-5927  
email: [Frank.A.Marcheski@uscg.mil](mailto:Frank.A.Marcheski@uscg.mil)

Air Force: Mr. William A. D'Avanzo  
tel: (210) 565-2591, DSN: 665-2591, Option 5  
fax: (210) 565-2543, DSN fax: 665-2543  
email: [dpsoof.votingfund@randolph.af.mil](mailto:dpsoof.votingfund@randolph.af.mil)

# The Military Voting Assistance Officer

## The Continuity Folder/File:

- Create and maintain a continuity folder for your reference and to ensure that your successor understands what he or she is supposed to do
- The continuity folder will help you demonstrate to the Inspector General that you are fulfilling your duties.
- The continuity folder should include the following:
  - Current *Voting Assistance Guide*
  - Absentee voting forms (FPCA, FWAB)
  - VAO designation letter
  - Election Dates Calendar
  - Voting assistance good ideas and lessons learned
  - Recent Voting News Releases
  - VAO Training and Certificate





# **Voting by Absentee Ballot**

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Voting Requirements:

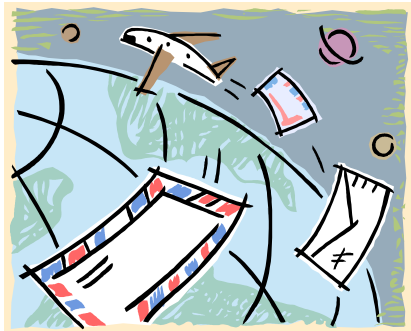
- A voter must be a U.S. citizen, and;
- At least 18 years old on Election Day in order to vote (some States permit a 17-year old to vote in primary election if he or she will be 18 by the date of the general election)



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## The Voting Process:


- The absentee voting process permits citizens covered by *UOCAVA*, who will be away from their local polling places on Election Day, to register, request a ballot, and vote through the mail (or an alternative method if allowed by the State).
- In order to receive a ballot in a timely manner, it is very important that citizens keep their local election officials informed of address changes.




# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## The Absentee Voting Process

Step 1: Complete the FPCA to register and request your absentee ballot from your election official



Step 2: Election official approves your FPCA and sends you a blank absentee ballot



Step 3: Complete the FWAB to ensure that your vote is received in time to be counted



Step 4: Complete the Absentee Ballot and return it to your election official



Step 5: Your vote is counted.

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## The Federal Post Card Application:

- The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is a postage-paid postcard for use by absentee voters covered under UOCAVA and is available through service distribution channels;
- The FPCA is also available for free at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov);
- Use the *Voting Assistance Guide* to find voting procedures for all States and territories, including:
  - Registration and ballot request deadlines;
  - State ballot mail out timeframes;
  - Ballot return deadlines;
  - Electronic transmission alternatives.

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## The Federal Post Card Application:

- The FPCA serves as a valid request for absentee voter registration and/or absentee ballot request, regardless of whether the sender was registered prior to submitting the FPCA.
- FVAP recommends that each citizen submit an FPCA to his or her State of legal residence in January of each year and again each time there is a change in the citizen's mailing address.



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## The Federal Post Card Application:

- As a VAO, citizens will come to you for assistance in filling out the forms required to register and vote absentee under *UOCAVA*.
- The following slides will walk through the process of completing and submitting the FPCA and the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.
- This process will be presented from your standpoint as a VAO providing assistance to a member of the Uniformed Services, Jim, and his wife, Jane, who want to register and vote in the November general election.



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Completing the FPCA:

### Block 1: Register/Request Ballot

- Because Jim is in the Uniformed Services, he will check box (a).
- Jim's wife, Jane, and any eligible family members will also check box (a).
- This information determines, in some States, whether a voter receives a partial ballot (only Federal offices) or full ballot (Federal and non-Federal).
- All States allow Uniformed Services members to vote the full ballot – thus, Jim will receive the full ballot.

#### REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)

1. I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND I AM *(Mark only one)*:



(a) A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT



(b) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY



(c) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Completing the FPCA:

### Block 2: My Information

- Information on race is requested by some States, but Jim's application will not be rejected if he leaves it blank.
- You should encourage Jim to provide a telephone, fax number, and email, which will help the local election official communicate with him and resolve any questions.

2. MY INFORMATION									
a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle)						SUFFIX (Jr., Sr., III, etc.)		b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable)	
Jones, James, Larry						Sr			
c. SEX		d. RACE	e. DATE OF BIRTH		f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		g. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F			05 17 1985		- - 11 25		XY-1452571772		
h. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)						i. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)			
23- 145- 14- 5777 145						23- 1 45- 14- 67 879145			
j. EMAIL ADDRESS									
jj.pdf57@hawkstooth.com									



## Block 3: My Voting Residence

- |  |  |  |  |           |  |  |          |  |             |  |
|--|--|--|--|-----------|--|--|----------|--|-------------|--|
| 3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Required) (Military, use legal residence. Overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.) |  |  |  |           |  |  |          |  |             |  |
| a. NUMBER AND STREET (Cannot be a P.O. Box)  |  |  |  |           |  |  |          |  |             |  |
| 122 Maple Terrace  |  |  |  |           |  |  |          |  |             |  |
| b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE   |  |  |  | c. COUNTY |  |  | d. STATE |  | e. ZIP CODE |  |
| Mayville   |  |  |  | Somewhere |  |  | PA       |  | 06757-1007  |  |

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Voting Residence:

- Each voter must have a legal residence address in a State or territory to vote in U.S. elections.
- Final determinations on issues of voting residence are made by the local election officials.
- Voters should provide as much information as possible on the FPCA to help ensure successful registration and ballot request.
- Always check with legal counsel if you have questions about legal residence.



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Voting Residence:

- Key points to remember:
  - You may only have one legal residence at a time, but you may change it each time you are transferred to a new location.
  - The address on your Leave and Earnings statement is often your legal residence address.

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Completing the FPCA:

### Block 4: Where to Send My Voting Materials

- Since Jim is currently stationed overseas at an APO, he enters his mailing address at that location.
- You remind Jim to notify his local election official ASAP if/when he has an address change.
- Jim can check the VAG to see if his State permits faxing or emailing of the ballot.

4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS	
a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Where I live now) (Required)	b. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS (NOTE: Complete 4b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4a.)
James Larry Jones	James Larry Jones
USS FVAP	12 North Court st
FPO AE 54321	Rockville, PN 43210
c. I PREFER TO RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT, AS PERMITTED BY MY STATE, BY:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> FAX <input type="checkbox"/> EMAIL	

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Completing the FPCA:

### Block 5: My Political Party Preference

- Political party preference is required in most States to participate in partisan primary elections.
- In a partisan primary election, candidates from a political party are chosen to represent that party in a subsequent general election.
- After checking his State's requirements in the VAG, Jim decides to enter his political party preference.
- *Note that even if Jim did not enter party preference, he would still receive the November general election ballot.*

5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections):

A b c d e f | P a r t y | | | | |

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Completing the FPCA:

### Block 6: Additional Information

- Provide any additional information in this box that may assist your Local Election Official with processing your form.
- Your State also may require additional language be included in this box.
- The Voting Assistance Guide will also indicate any other materials or proof of residence you may be required to provide your State.

**6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** *(Designate the period for which you want to receive ballots - see instructions for Block 6, paragraph (3). Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for other specific state instructions.)*

Last date lived in Mayville: Feb. 2002.

Due to military contingencies, I am unable to follow the regular absentee ballot application process. I request a special write-in ballot.



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Completing the FPCA:

### Block 7: Affirmation

- After reading the affirmation, Jim signs and dates the application.
- You remind Jim that by signing the FPCA, he is verifying his information under the penalty of perjury.

#### 7. AFFIRMATION

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and
2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and
3. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and
4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and
5. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and
6. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

Signed: James L. Jones Date: 08072006 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
M M D D Y Y Y Y (Witness/Notary and address (if required)) M M D D Y Y Y Y

The information contained herein is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

Jim is now ready to submit his FPCA:

- First, he checks his State's requirements in the VAG to make sure he complies with any/all State deadlines;
- Second, he looks in his State's section of the VAG to determine if any electronic transmission options are available. States may allow the voter to submit the FPCA by email or fax;
- Next, he looks in his State's section of the VAG for the mailing address of his local election official.
- He enters the complete address for the local election official on the FPCA mailing envelope:
  - You notify Jim that if he mails his FPCA through the U.S. Post Office (including APO/FPO) or diplomatic pouch, he should not write "USA" in the address line of the mailing envelope, as this could cause delay.
  - Note that if Jim was using a foreign country's postal service, he would have to apply local postage, and he should write "USA" in the address line of the mailing envelope.



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## How to Send It:

- Cardstock version of the FPCA is postage-paid in the US Mails
  - U.S. Postal Service
  - Military Postal Service
  - State Department Pouch Mail
- Online version must be placed in an envelope and postage is not automatically paid
  - Postage Paid envelope template available at <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/returnenvelope.pdf>

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

- When the local election official receives Jim's FPCA he/she will process the form and send the ballot to Jim's mailing address, provided that Jim meets the State residency requirements and his FPCA was fully completed.
- Jim is encouraged to call, fax, or email his local election official to verify that her application was processed.
- Jim should receive his regular State absentee ballot from the local election official in time for him to vote and return the ballot by the State's deadline for counting.



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Top Reasons why an FPCA Cannot be Processed:

- Inadequate or No Legal Voting Residence Address
- Inadequate or Illegible Current Mailing Address
- Illegible Writing
- Applying to the Wrong Jurisdiction
- Failure to Indicate Party Preference (for Primary Elections)
- Form not signed and/or dated
- Received too late
- Form not completed
- Envelope lacks proper postage



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Consequences of Failure

**YOU MAY BE UNABLE TO  
SUCCESFULLY RECEIVE  
AND CAST YOUR BALLOT**

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Electronic Transmission:

- All States and territories will transmit a blank ballot through electronic transmission (fax or email).
- Many states will allow you to submit your FPCA or return your voted ballot by fax or email.
- The *Voting Assistance Guide* details which electronic alternatives are available in each State and territory.
- Refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for detailed transmittal instructions.



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## FVAP Electronic Transmission Service:

FVAP provides toll-free fax and email support to Uniformed Services members, family members and overseas citizens.

- Fax: DSN faxing and toll-free fax numbers in 51 countries
  - <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreefax.html>
- Email: Send materials in PDF form to [ets@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:ets@fvap.ncr.gov)
  - Where allowed by your State, you may also send your election materials to this email address for email-to-fax conversion.



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot:

- Occasionally, even though a *UOCAVA* voter has submitted a complete and timely FPCA, he/she may not receive the ballot in time to return it by the State's deadline.
- In situations like this, *UOCAVA* citizens may use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).
- The FWAB is a ballot that can be used by *UOCAVA* citizens in all general elections for Federal offices.
- The FWAB is pre-positioned at Uniformed Service bases throughout the world and available online at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot:

- You can submit the FWAB at any time, and multiple times (though only one will be counted).
- In most cases you can only use the FWAB to vote for Federal offices in general elections.
- Some States have expanded the use of the FWAB to include:
  - Voting in primary, run-off, and special elections;
  - Voting for offices other than Federal offices;
  - Use as a registration and ballot request.
- You should still return your regular State ballot.
- Submit the FWAB no later than 30 days before the election.

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot

FWAB SF-186

FWAB SF-186A(Online)

**WARNING:** Knowingly presenting false information in this application could result in criminal sanctions. (Standard Form 186A (Rev. 10-2005))

**VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION - FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB)**

1. I AM (Mark only one):  
☐ A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT  
☐ A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY  
☐ A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY

1a. I ALSO REQUEST VOTER REGISTRATION (where permitted by state law): ☐

2. MY INFORMATION (Required)  
 a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, first, middle): \_\_\_\_\_ SUFFIX (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. SEX: ☐ Male ☐ Female d. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ e. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ f. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 g. TELEPHONE NUMBER (NO DASHES) (Include an international prefix): \_\_\_\_\_ h. FAX NUMBER (NO DASHES) (Include an international prefix): \_\_\_\_\_

3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Required) (Analyze, use legal residence. Overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.)  
 a. NUMBER AND STREET (Include ZIP+4): \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ c. COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ d. STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ e. ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS  
 a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Include ZIP+4) (Required): \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. MY HOME/WORKING ADDRESS (OTHER) (Optional, use only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in (4a)): \_\_\_\_\_

5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections): \_\_\_\_\_

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Overseas the period for which you want to receive future ballots. See instructions. Consult your state pages of the Voting Assistance Guide for additional information requested): \_\_\_\_\_

7. AFFIRMATION: (Required)  
 I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:  
 1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. indefinitely.  
 2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and  
 3. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and  
 4. I am not requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and  
 5. My application for a regular absentee ballot was mailed in time to be received by the local election official 30 days prior to this election, or the state deadline, whichever is later, and  
 6. I have not received the requested ballot, and  
 7. I understand that my regular absentee ballot is received by the local election official in time to be counted, that ballot will be counted and this ballot will be counted, and  
 8. I have voted and sealed this ballot in private and have not allowed any person to observe the marking of this ballot, except for those authorized to assist voters under state or federal law and have not been threatened, and  
 9. I am a Uniformed Services member, or dependent, who is absent from my voting jurisdiction, or I am an overseas citizen and have submitted this ballot from outside the U.S., or my state has made special provisions to assist me to mail this ballot outside the U.S., and  
 10. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and  
 11. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.  
 I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY)

The information contained herein is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.

**OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

U.S. SENATOR

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE/DELEGATE\*\*/RESIDENT COMMISSIONER\*\*

**ADDENDUM**  
 Some states allow the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas citizens in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult your state section in the Voting Assistance Guide to determine your state's policy. If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices/candidates other than those listed above, please indicate in the space provided below the office for which you wish to vote (for example, Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.), and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.

OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_ CANDIDATE NAME or PARTY AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Standard Form 186 (Rev. 2005) (Use reverse side for additional space)

**OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

**SECURITY ENVELOPE**

(ONLY PUT VOTED BALLOT INSIDE THIS ENVELOPE)

Standard Form 186 (Rev. 2005)

**OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

U.S. SENATOR

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE/DELEGATE\*\*/RESIDENT COMMISSIONER\*\*

**ADDENDUM**  
 Some states allow the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas citizens in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult your state section in the Voting Assistance Guide to determine your state's policy. If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices/candidates other than those listed above, please indicate in the space provided below the office for which you wish to vote (for example, Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.), and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.

OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_ CANDIDATE NAME or PARTY AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Standard Form 186A (Rev. 10-2005)

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

- It is 34 days before the general election, and Jim has returned to you for additional assistance.
- Jim has not received his absentee ballot and he is concerned that there is not enough time to return it in a timely manner if/when he does get it.
- As a VAO, you know that FVAP recommends that a *UOCAVA* voter who has not received his/her ballot should complete and submit the FWAB no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day before the election.



# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Completing the FWAB:

- First, you tell Jim to read all instructions carefully before completing the Declaration/Affirmation, which is very similar to the FPCA.
- Next, you notify Jim that, as with the FPCA, some States require that a notary/witness sign the FWAB, so he should check the VAG to find out what is required in his State.
- Jim signs and dates at the bottom of Declaration/Affirmation.

WARNING: Knowingly presenting false information in this application could result in criminal sanctions. Standard Form 185A (Rev. 10-2005)

VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION - FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB)				
1. a. I AM (Mark only one):				
<input type="checkbox"/> A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT <input type="checkbox"/> A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY <input type="checkbox"/> A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY				
1. b. I ALSO REQUEST VOTER REGISTRATION (where permitted by state law) <input type="checkbox"/>				
2. MY INFORMATION (Required)				
3. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle)			4. SUFFIX (Jr., Sr., III, etc.)	
5. SEX <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		6. RACE	7. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)	8. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
				9. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER
10. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)			11. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)	
12. EMAIL ADDRESS				
3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Required) (Military, use legal residence. Overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.)				
a. NUMBER AND STREET (cannot be a P.O. Box)				
b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE		c. COUNTY		d. STATE
				e. ZIP CODE
4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS				
5. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Where I live now) (Required)			6. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS (NOTE: Complete 4b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4a.)	
5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional; not may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections)				
6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive future ballots. See instructions. Consult your state pages of the Voting Assistance Guide for additional information requested)				
7. AFFIRMATION: (Required)				
I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:				
1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and				
2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and				
3. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and				
4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and				
5. My application for a regular absentee ballot was mailed in time to be received by the local election official 30 days prior to this election, or the state deadline, whichever is later, and				
6. I have not received the requested ballot, and				
7. I understand that if my regular absentee ballot is received by the local election official in time to be counted, that ballot will be counted and this write-in ballot will be voided, and				
8. I have voted and sealed this ballot in private and have not allowed any person to observe the marking of this ballot, except for those authorized to assist voters under state or Federal law and I have not been influenced, and				
9. I am a Uniformed Services member, or dependent, who is absent from my voting jurisdiction, or I am an overseas citizen and have submitted this ballot from outside the U.S., or my state has made special provisions to allow me to mail this ballot inside the U.S., and				
10. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and				
11. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.				
I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.				
Signed: _____ Date: _____ (MM/DD/YYYY) Witness/Notary and Address: (If required) _____ Date: _____ (MM/DD/YYYY)				
The information contained herein is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.				

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

## Completing the FWAB:

- Jim is now ready to complete the write-in ballot, but before he does so, you explain to him that:
  - The FWAB is used for Federal offices, so he can write in his preferred candidates for the Office of President and Vice President, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Representative.
  - For each office, he may write in either a candidate's name or a political party designation.
  - Some States have expanded the use of the FWAB for State and local offices as well, so he should check the VAG to see if his State allows him to write-in these offices.

OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT	
PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT	
U.S. SENATOR**	
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE/DELEGATE** PRESIDENT COMMISSIONER**	
<small>** Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.                      *** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.</small>	
<small>ADDENDUM                      Some states allow the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult your state section in the Voting Assistance Guide to determine your state's policy. If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for official candidates other than those listed above, please indicate in the spaces provided below the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.), and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.</small>	
<small>OFFICE</small> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">State Governor</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div>	<small>CANDIDATE NAME or PARTY AFFILIATION</small> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div>
<small>Standard Form 106 (Rev. 2005) <span style="float: right;">(Use reverse side for additional space)</span></small>	

(Separate here)

OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT	
<p><b><u>SECURITY ENVELOPE</u></b></p> <p>(ONLY PUT VOTED BALLOT INSIDE THIS ENVELOPE)</p>	
<small>Standard Form 106 (Rev. 2005)</small>	

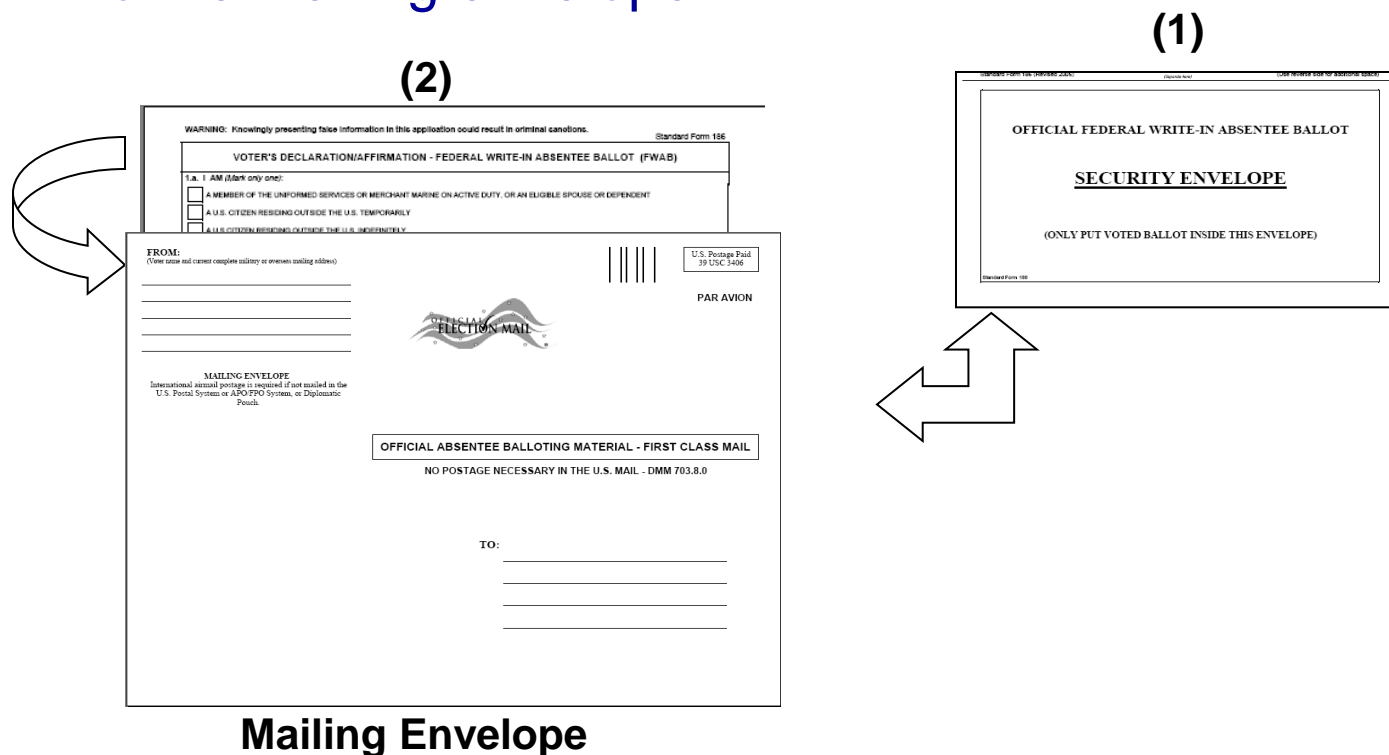
## Voting by Absentee Ballot

- Jim looks in his State's section of the VAG to determine if any electronic transmission options are available. States may allow the voter to submit the FWAB by email or fax.
- He refers to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for detailed transmittal instructions, including instructions for completing the required Official Election Materials Electronic Transmission Sheet.

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

- Next, Jim inserts (1) the sealed security envelope (containing the voted write-in ballot) and (2) the Declaration/Affirmation into the mailing envelope.

**(2)**



**(1)**

**(2)**

WARNING: Knowingly presenting false information in this application could result in criminal sanctions. (Standard Form 186)

**VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION - FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB)**

I,                     , AM (Mark only one):

☐ A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT

☐ A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY

☐ A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. PERMANENTLY

**FROM:**  
(Print name and current complete military or overseas mailing address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PAR AVION

**MAILING ENVELOPE**  
International airmail postage is required if not mailed in the U.S. Postal System or APO/FPO System, or Diplomatic Pouch.

**OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST CLASS MAIL**

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL - DMM 703.8.0

**TO:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SECURITY ENVELOPE**

**OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

**SECURITY ENVELOPE**

(ONLY PUT VOTED BALLOT INSIDE THIS ENVELOPE)

**Mailing Envelope**



## Voting by Absentee Ballot

- Jim looks in his State's section of the VAG for the mailing address of his local election official.
- He enters the complete address of the local election official on the FWAB mailing envelope.
  - You notify Jim that if he is mailing his FWAB through the U.S. Post Office (including APO/FPO), he should not write "USA" in the address line of the mailing envelope, as this could cause delay.
  - Note that if Jim was using a foreign country's postal service, he would have to apply local postage, and he should write "USA" in the address line of the mailing envelope.

## Voting by Absentee Ballot

- Next, Jim enters his mailing address in the upper left corner of the envelope – not his legal voting residence address.
- You remind Jim that before mailing, he needs to review the voter checklist that is provided on the mailing envelope.
- Notify Jim that, if possible, he should ask the mail clerk to hand stamp the FWAB envelope for proof of timely mailing
- Finally, Jim places the FWAB in the mail.

FROM: (Please print and correct complete mailing or overseas mailing address)  
James Larry Smith  
Company FWAP  
APO AP 54321

U.S. Postage Paid  
30 USC 7406

PAR AVION

ELECTION MAIL

MAILING ENVELOPE  
International return postage is required if not mailed in the U.S. Postal Service or APO/FPO System, or Diplomatic pouch.

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST CLASS MAIL  
NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF THE U.S. MAIL - DMM 703.8.0

To: Somewhere County Board of Elections  
Mayville Office Building  
100 Corner Street  
Mayville, CA 95555-2222



## Voting by Absentee Ballot

- Two days after mailing the FWAB, Jim receives his regular State absentee ballot. You advise Jim that he should vote and return the ballot immediately.
- The regular ballot must be signed, dated, and postmarked by the day of the election.
- If the regular ballot arrives by the deadline for receipt of absentee ballots, the State will count the regular ballot instead of the FWAB.
- Jim should return his regular ballot regardless of its receipt date because his State may allow late counting of these ballots from overseas citizens.

# Additional Resources

# Additional Resources

[www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

- The FVAP website provides:
  - All of the FVAP's informational materials
  - Election information
  - The online *Voting Assistance Guide*
  - The online Federal Post Card Application
  - The online Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot
  - Links to State election sites, Federal government sites and overseas U.S. citizen organizations
  - Additional information and resources for VAOs

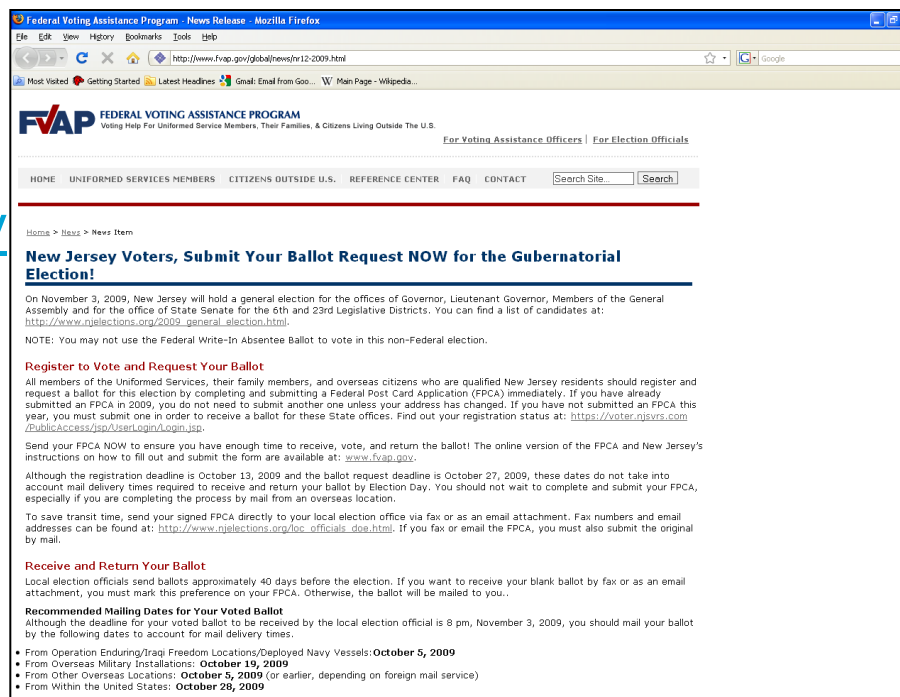
The screenshot displays the FVAP website's 'Absentee Voting Overview' page. At the top, the FVAP logo and tagline 'Voting Help For Uniformed Service Members, Their Families, & Citizens Living Outside The U.S.' are visible. Navigation links include HOME, UNIFORMED SERVICES MEMBERS, CITIZENS OUTSIDE U.S., REFERENCE CENTER, FAQ, and CONTACT. A search bar is also present. The main heading is 'Absentee Voting Overview'. Below this, a four-step process flow is shown: 1. Complete the Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form and send it to your Election Official. 2. Election Official approves your Registration/Request and mails your ballot. 3. Complete the absentee ballot and return it to your Election Official. 4. Your vote is counted. A link 'To learn more about the absentee voting process, please go to [About Absentee Voting](#).' is provided. The page is divided into two main columns. The left column is titled 'To Vote Absentee, Start By Telling Us Who You Are' and contains two options: 'I am a uniformed service member or a family member.' and 'I am a citizen living outside the U.S.'. Each option has a 'Get Started' button. The right column features an 'Election Countdown' showing '469 Days' and a 'News' section with links to 'July 16, 2009 California News', 'April 24, 2009 Sloan Contest News', and 'April 6, 2009 California News'. There is also an 'RSS Subscribe' link and a 'Quick Links' section with links to 'Get the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request Form', 'Get the Back-up Ballot (Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot)', and 'Find out where to send my Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request and absentee ballot.'. A footer note states: 'If neither of these choices apply to you, please visit [www.canivote.org](http://www.canivote.org)'.

## Voting News Releases

Voting News Releases provide time-sensitive periodic news releases that inform and educate VAOs and UOCAVA citizens about the latest critical information on election dates, absentee registration, ballot request, and voting procedures.

➤ Voting News Releases are available online at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and sent directly via email to VAOs

➤ Sign up to receive the Voting News Releases by sending an email to [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov).



The screenshot shows the FVAP website with a news release titled "New Jersey Voters, Submit Your Ballot Request NOW for the Gubernatorial Election!". The release is dated November 3, 2009, and provides information about the general election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the General Assembly and State Senate. It includes instructions for voters to register, request a ballot, and return it by the deadline of October 27, 2009. The website also features a search bar and navigation links for various user groups.

**Federal Voting Assistance Program - News Release - Mozilla Firefox**

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.fvap.gov/global/news/nr12-2009.html

Most Visited Getting Started Latest Headlines Gmail: Email From Goo... W Main Page - Wikipedia...

**FVAP** FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
Voting Help For Uniformed Service Members, Their Families, & Citizens Living Outside The U.S.

For Voting Assistance Officers | For Election Officials

HOME UNIFORMED SERVICES MEMBERS CITIZENS OUTSIDE U.S. REFERENCE CENTER FAQ CONTACT Search Site... Search

Home > News > News Item

**New Jersey Voters, Submit Your Ballot Request NOW for the Gubernatorial Election!**

On November 3, 2009, New Jersey will hold a general election for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Members of the General Assembly and for the office of State Senate for the 6th and 23rd Legislative Districts. You can find a list of candidates at: [http://www.njelections.org/2009\\_general\\_election.html](http://www.njelections.org/2009_general_election.html).

NOTE: You may not use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote in this non-Federal election.

**Register to Vote and Request Your Ballot**

All members of the Uniformed Services, their family members, and overseas citizens who are qualified New Jersey residents should register and request a ballot for this election by completing and submitting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) immediately. If you have already submitted an FPCA in 2009, you do not need to submit another one unless your address has changed. If you have not submitted an FPCA this year, you must submit one in order to receive a ballot for these State offices. Find out your registration status at: <https://voter.njsvrs.com/PublicAccess/jsp/UserLogin/Login.jsp>.

Send your FPCA NOW to ensure you have enough time to receive, vote, and return the ballot! The online version of the FPCA and New Jersey's instructions on how to fill out and submit the form are available at: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

Although the registration deadline is October 13, 2009 and the ballot request deadline is October 27, 2009, these dates do not take into account mail delivery times required to receive and return your ballot by Election Day. You should not wait to complete and submit your FPCA, especially if you are completing the process by mail from an overseas location.

To save transit time, send your signed FPCA directly to your local election office via fax or as an email attachment. Fax numbers and email addresses can be found at: [http://www.njelections.org/loc\\_officials\\_doe.html](http://www.njelections.org/loc_officials_doe.html). If you fax or email the FPCA, you must also submit the original by mail.

**Receive and Return Your Ballot**

Local election officials send ballots approximately 40 days before the election. If you want to receive your blank ballot by fax or as an email attachment, you must mark this preference on your FPCA. Otherwise, the ballot will be mailed to you.

**Recommended Mailing Dates for Your Voted Ballot**

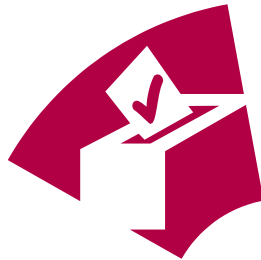
Although the deadline for your voted ballot to be received by the local election official is 8 pm, November 3, 2009, you should mail your ballot by the following dates to account for mail delivery times.

- From Operation Enduring/Brig Freedom Locations/Deployed Navy Vessels: **October 5, 2009**
- From Overseas Military Installations: **October 19, 2009**
- From Other Overseas Locations: **October 5, 2009** (or earlier, depending on foreign mail service)
- From Within the United States: **October 28, 2009**

# Additional Resources

## Voter Registration Verification:

- Voters can verify their registration status online in 34 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- Links to these “State Voter Registration Verification Websites” are provided at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)



# Additional Resources


## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

- FAQs for Uniformed Service Members are available online and in the *Voting Assistance Guide*.
- The FAQs provides answers on a variety of *UOCAVA* and election topics, including:
  - Qualifying to Vote Absentee & Determining Where to Vote
  - Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot
  - Casting Your Vote
  - Problems Receiving a Ballot
  - Other Election Information



# Additional Resources

## 2010 Primary Election Dates:

2010 Primary Elections by State					
					
This chart lists the 2010 State primary election dates in all the States, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories; primary runoff dates (if applicable); States with U.S. Senate races; number of U.S. Representative seats up for re-election, and gubernatorial races. The General Election is Tuesday, November 2, 2010.					
State	State Primary	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	General Election		State Governor
			U.S. Senate	U.S. Representative	
Alabama	June 1	July 13	Yes	7	Yes
Alaska	August 24	-----	Yes	1	Yes
American Samoa	-----	-----	-----	1 Delegate	No
Arizona	August 31	-----	Yes	8	Yes
Arkansas	May 18	June 8	Yes	4	Yes
California	June 8	-----	Yes	53	Yes
Colorado	August 10	-----	Yes	7	Yes
Connecticut	August 10	-----	Yes	5	Yes
Delaware	September 14	-----	Yes	1	No
District of Columbia	September 14	-----	-----	1 Delegate	Mayor
Florida	August 24	-----	Yes	25	Yes
Georgia	July 20	August 10	Yes	13	Yes
Guam	September 4	-----	-----	1 Delegate	Yes
Hawaii	September 18	-----	Yes	2	Yes
Idaho	May 25	-----	Yes	2	Yes
Illinois	February 2	-----	Yes	19	Yes
Indiana	May 4	-----	Yes	9	No
Iowa	June 8	-----	Yes	5	Yes
Kansas	August 3	-----	Yes	4	Yes
Kentucky	May 18	-----	Yes	6	No
Louisiana	August 28 (1st Party)	October 2 (2nd Party)**	Yes	7	No
Maine	June 8	-----	No	2	Yes
Maryland	September 14	-----	Yes	8	Yes
Massachusetts	September 14	-----	No	10	Yes
Michigan	August 3	-----	No	15	Yes
Minnesota	September 14	-----	No	6	Yes
Mississippi	June 1	June 22	No	4	No
Missouri	August 3	-----	Yes	9	No
Montana	June 8	-----	No	1	No
Nebraska	May 11	-----	No	3	Yes
Nevada	June 8	-----	Yes	3	Yes
New Hampshire	September 14	-----	Yes	2	Yes
New Jersey	June 8	-----	No	13	No
New Mexico	June 1	-----	No	3	Yes
New York	September 14	-----	Yes	29	Yes
North Carolina	May 4	June 22	Yes	13	No
North Dakota	June 8	-----	Yes	1	No
Ohio	May 4	-----	Yes	18	Yes
Oklahoma	July 27	August 24	Yes	5	Yes
Oregon	May 18	-----	Yes	5	Yes
Pennsylvania	May 18	-----	Yes	19	Yes
Puerto Rico	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Rhode Island	September 14	-----	No	2	Yes
South Carolina	June 8	June 22	Yes	6	Yes
South Dakota	June 8	June 29	Yes	1	Yes
Tennessee	August 5	-----	No	9	Yes
Texas	March 2	-----	No	32	Yes
Utah	June 22	-----	Yes	3	No
Vermont	September 14	-----	Yes	1	Yes
Virgin Islands	September 11	-----	No	1 Delegate	Yes
Virginia	June 8	-----	No	11	No
Washington	August 17	-----	Yes	9	No
West Virginia	May 11	-----	No	3	No
Wisconsin	September 14	-----	Yes	8	Yes
Wyoming	August 17	-----	No	1	Yes

\*1st Party Congressional    \*\*State Primary, & 2nd Party Congressional Runoff if necessary

Note: Election information is current as of July 2009. Check your State election website or www.fvap.gov for additional details and updates.

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## 2010 Recommended Mailing Dates

- From Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom, Deployed Naval Vessels: 4 weeks before the election
- From Other Overseas Military Installations: 3 weeks before the election
- From Other Overseas Locations: 4 weeks before the election (depending on foreign mail service)
- From Within the United States: 1 week before the election



## Contact FVAP

Website: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)  
Email: [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)  
Phone: Commercial: 703-588-1584  
Toll-free: 800-438-VOTE (8683)  
DSN: 425-1584

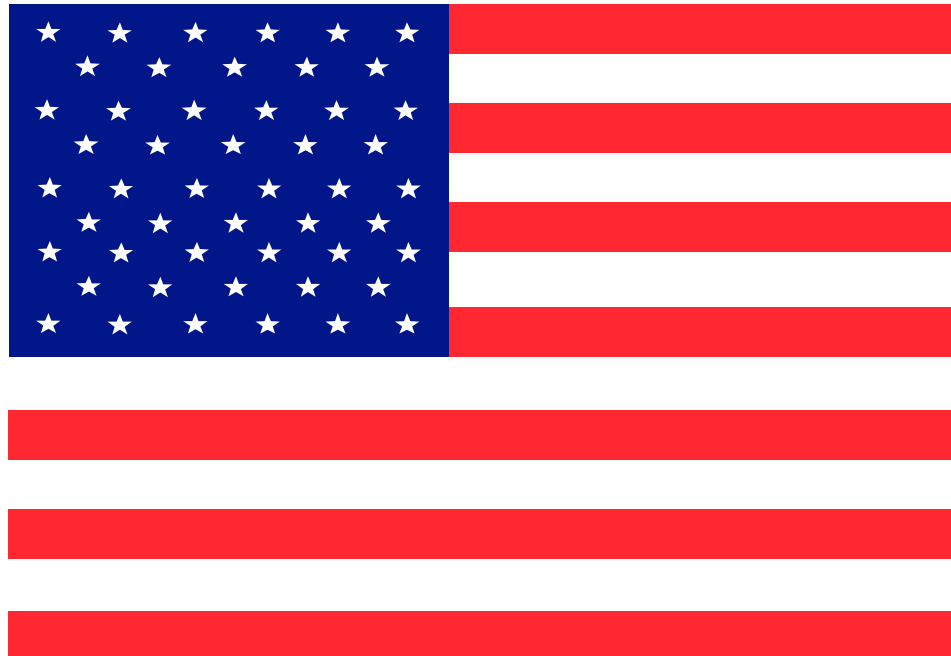
Twitter: [twitter.com/fvap](https://twitter.com/fvap)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dodfvap](https://www.facebook.com/dodfvap)

Toll-free commercial phone numbers from 67 countries (list available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov))

Toll-free commercial fax numbers from 51 countries (list available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov))

## Quick Review

The following is a quick review of the main points to remember from this training program. After you finish the review, you may complete the Certificate of Training.



## Quick Review

- Individuals covered under UOCAVA include:
  - Active duty members of the Uniformed Services
  - Uniformed Service family members
  - Members of the Merchant Marine
  - Merchant Marine family members
  - Civilians residing outside the United States
- VAOs help to ensure that U.S. citizens understand their voting rights and how to register and vote absentee under *UOCAVA*
- The FVAP biennial Voting Action Plan and DOD Directive 1000.4 establish policy and guidelines for an effective voting assistance program

## Quick Review

- The primary resources for a VAO include:
  - The *Voting Assistance Guide*
  - The FVAP website
  - The Service Voting Action Officer (SVAO)
- An effective voting assistance plan includes:
  - Distributing voting materials in a timely manner
  - Displaying the Election Dates and motivational posters
  - Planning voting assistance activities
- All States have two basic voting requirements
  - A voter must be a citizen of the U.S
  - At least 18 years old (17 in some States if 18 by the general election)

## Quick Review

- The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) can be used by UOCAVA voters to register and request a ballot
  - The FPCA is available online
  - Voters should send in a new FPCA in January of each year or if/when there is a change of address
- The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is a backup or emergency ballot that UOCAVA citizens can use in general elections for Federal office
  - The FWAB is available online
  - Citizens should submit FWAB no later than 30 days prior to the election
- The FVAP conducts in-person workshops in Washington D.C. and around the world



## Certification

Congratulations on completing the 2010-2011 Voting Assistance Officer Training! The following slide contains the Certificate of Completion. Please fill in your name, organization, command, or activity, and date at the bottom.

Thank you for your participation and for your service as a Voting Assistance Officer.





**Department of Defense**  
**Federal Voting Assistance Program**



# **Certificate of Training**

**On-Line/CD Rom Workshop for Voting Assistance Officers**

**Presented To**

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**Command, Activity or Organization, Location**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. J. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

**Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program**

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**Date**



# **Federal Voting Assistance Program**

## **Department of Defense**

### **Military Voting Assistance Officers**

### **Self-Administered Training**